

2017 Australian Ranking Tournaments – Late withdrawal rule

Players are now allowed three late withdrawals within a calendar year before any penalty will be imposed.

Time of withdrawal	Allowed	Violation will be issued
Late withdrawal (between deadline and first match)	First three (3) late withdrawal offences within a calendar year are allowed	A player will be issued one disciplinary point under the Tennis Australia Code of Behaviour policy when he/she has incurred the fourth late withdrawal in a calendar year. And another disciplinary point for every subsequent late withdrawal.
On-site withdrawal (prior to first match)	Events with a tournament appointed Dr/Physio/PHCP on-site:	
	If the tournament appointed doctor/PHCP verifies that player is unfit to compete in the tournament or unfit to play the first event and cleared to play in other events at the same tournament, then the player will not be subject to late withdrawal penalties.	Withdrawal without on-site verification of unfit to play from appointed doctor/PHCP.
	Events without a tournament appointed Dr/Physio/PHCP on-site:	
	If a player is on site and obviously injured/ill and the Referee is satisfied, then the player will not be subject to late withdrawal penalties.	A withdrawal where the Referee is not satisfied of a valid reason, or cannot confirm that an injury or illness exists to the degree that a player cannot meet their commitment at that event.
	Please note for withdrawals due to bereavement:	
	If a player is committed to complete a match or tournament, yet is unable to do so for reasons of bereavement and the Referee is satisfied of the validity, the player will not be subject to late withdrawal penalties.	
On-site withdrawal/retirement once the first match commenced	If a player is committed to complete a match and/or a tournament, yet is unable to start the match or to complete it after commencement of the match, for reasons of illness, injury or bereavement and the Referee has verified the reason and is satisfied of the validity of it, then the player will not be penalised according to the Code of Behaviour, failure to complete a match/a tournament.	If a player does not complete a match and/or a tournament without a legitimate reason which satisfies the Referee: The player will be penalised according to the Code of Behaviour, failure to complete a match/a tournament.

Notes:

- Withdrawal vs. No-Show:** A *withdrawal* is received by the Tournament Referee or Tournament Director (email, fax or post – but not SMS) before the start of the relevant first match for that athlete at the tournament. A *no-show* applies when no valid withdrawal is received before declaring the default.
- Discretion of the Referee clause:** The discretion of the Referee may or may not be an onsite decision. The Referee may need to consult with Member Association/Tennis Australia about the circumstances. Generally, once the first match begins the player is expected to complete the match and is committed to complete the tournament. If there is any doubt, the referee should not excuse a player and submit the late withdrawal code violation, or a failure to complete a match/a tournament.